

R612. Labor Commission, Industrial Accidents.

R612-2. Workers' Compensation Rules-Health Care Providers.

R612-2-18. Dental Injuries.

A. This rule establishes procedures to obtain dental care for work-related dental injuries and sets fees for such dental care.

B. Initial Treatment.

1. If an employer maintains a medical staff or designates a company doctor, an injured worker seeking dental treatment for work-related injuries shall report to such medical staff or doctor and follow their instructions.

2. If an employer does not maintain a medical staff or designate a company doctor, or if such staff or doctor are not available, an injured worker may consult a dentist to obtain immediate care dental for injuries caused by a work-related accident. The insurer shall pay the dentist providing this initial treatment at 70% of UCR for the services rendered.

C. Subsequent care by initial treatment provider.

1. If additional treatment is necessary, the dentist who provided initial treatment may submit to the insurer a request for authorization to continue treatment. The transmission date of the request must be verifiable. The request itself must include a description of the injury, the additional treatment required, and the cost of the additional treatment. If the dentist proceeds with treatment without authorization, the dentist must accept 70% of UCR as payment in full and may not charge any additional sum to the injured worker.

2. The insurer shall respond to the request for authorization within 10 working days of the request's transmission. This 10-day period can be extended only with written approval of the Industrial Accidents Division. If the insurer does not respond to the dentist's request for authorization within 10 working days, the insurer shall pay the cost of treatment as contained in the request for authorization.

3. If the insurer approves the proposed treatment, the insurer shall send written authorization to the dentist and injured worker. This authorization shall include the anticipated payment amount.

4. On receipt of the insurer's written authorization, and if the dentist accepts the payment provisions therein, the dentist may proceed to provide the approved services. The dentist must accept the amount to be paid by the insurer as full payment for those services and may not bill the injured worker for any additional amount.

D. Subsequent care by other providers.

1. If the dentist who provided initial treatment does not agree to the payment offered by the insurer, the insurer shall within 20 calendar days direct the injured worker to a dentist located within a reasonable travel distance who will accept the insurer's payment offer.

2. If the insurer cannot locate another dentist to provide the necessary services, the insurer shall attempt to negotiate a

satisfactory reimbursement with the dentist who provided initial treatment. The negotiated reimbursement may not include any balance billing to the claimant.

3. If the insurer is successful in arranging treatment with another dentist, the insurer shall notify the injured worker.

4. If, after having received notice that the insurer has arranged the services of another dentist, the injured worker chooses to obtain treatment from a different dentist, the insurer shall only be responsible for payment at 70% of UCR. Under the circumstances of this subsection (4), the treating dentist may bill the injured worker for the difference between the dentist's charges and the amount paid by the insurer.

E. Payment or treatment disputes that cannot be resolved by the parties may be submitted to the Labor Commission's Adjudication Division for decision, pursuant to the Adjudication Division's established forms and procedures.

KEY: workers' compensation, fees, medical practitioner

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